

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Animal Quarantine Regulations As They Affect Persons with Disabilities



Why does Hawaii have a quarantine period for animals?

Hawaii is the only rabies-free state in the United States. Quarantine prevents rabies from being introduced to Hawaii. The quarantine law requires dogs, cats, and carnivores entering the State be confined at the Quarantine Station for 30 or 120 days, except when the animal comes from Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand. These areas are also rabies-free, and have entry and quarantine requirements, equal to or stricter than Hawaii's.

On July 10, 2000, amendments to the State of Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 4-29 modified the quarantine procedures relating to guide, hearing (signal) and service dogs entering and leaving the State. *If the owner meets the specific requirements of animal quarantine for "exempted guide dogs" or "service dogs", then the quarantine rules are modified to allow the "animal" to enter the State without being confined in quarantine. If the dog does not meet the specific requirements, it will be quarantined for 120 days.*



Can I request modified quarantine if my dog and I travel separately?

The Department of Justice intended for the person with a disability (user) and the dog to travel together as a "team". These rules establish criteria for the "exempted guide dog" and "service dog" to satisfy in order to have the quarantine rules modified. It is the user who has the rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The dog has no inherent rights, so quarantine cannot be modified for a

The user, of the "exempted guide dog" or "service dog", must be a citizen of the United States and have a disability.

What is an "exempted guide dog" or a "service dog?"

"Exempted guide dog" means a guide dog that has graduated from an approved guide dog training program and that works as a team with its visually impaired user, who is a legal resident of the United States.

"Service dog" means a dog that is trained to: alert a deaf or hard of hearing person to sounds; assist a person with a mobility impairment; alert a person who has seizures; or to alert a person of an impending life-threatening medical crisis.

Why are "guide dogs" and "service dogs" considered as separate categories?

Persons who are blind and use guide dogs won a lawsuit to have the quarantine rules modified when traveling to and from Hawaii, prior to other types of service dogs. A separate consent decree resulted from this lawsuit relating specifically to guide dogs. Therefore, two categories had to be maintained when the "service dog" category was added later in order to remain in compliance with the consent decree.

The quarantine rules refer to "Class A", "Class B", "nonresident", and "resident" service or guide dog. What does each of these terms mean?

"Class A" means any service or exempted guide dog whose user has requested modified quarantine and has satisfied all of the requirements set forth by the Department of Agriculture (Department).

"Class B" means a dog that is unable to meet one or more Class "A" pre-arrival requirements but must travel to the State with its user for an emergency. Such dogs are housed at the animal quarantine station for the entirety of the 120-day period but may leave the station at any time only for the purposes related to the emergency that necessitated travel to the State.

"Nonresident" means a guide or service dog that resides on the mainland U.S., and is in Hawaii for a brief period of time. If the visit to Hawaii continues for more than 30 days, the user must contact the Department to provide the health status of the dog.

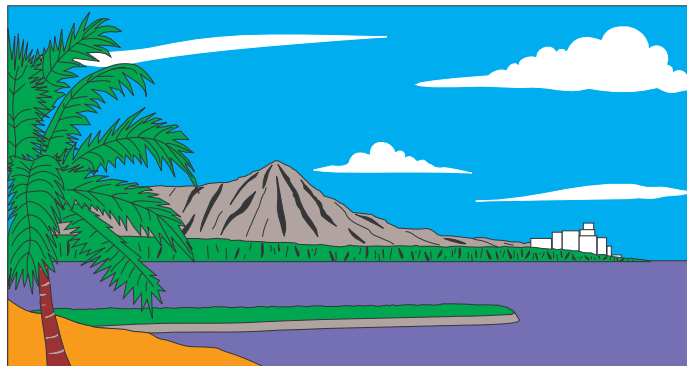
"Resident" means a guide or service dog that has resided in Hawaii for at least one (1) year prior to leaving the State, has been gone from the State no more than six (6) months, and has traveled only to the mainland U.S., Great Britain, Australia or New Zealand. Residency is established by providing the Department of Agriculture any one of the following documents: animal import records, animal licensing records from any county in the State, or veterinary records from a veterinarian licensed to practice in the State of Hawaii. Upon return to Hawaii, the service or guide dog will be inspected by an agent of the Department and is subject to treatment for external parasites. Any indication of a transmittable disease, at the time of inspection, may result in quarantine of the animal.

What are the requirements for a "resident guide or service dog" to be allowed modified quarantine?

If you live in Hawaii and plan to travel to and from the State, and you use a guide or service dog, certain requirements must be met:

- At least two (2) rabies vaccinations that are given not less than 3 months apart for dogs under one year of age, and given not less than one month apart for animals greater than one year of age. The first vaccination cannot be given to an animal less than three (3) months old.

- The dog is implanted with an electronic microchip manufactured in the United States that can be read with a standard American Veterinary Identification Device (AVID) scanner. The microchip number must be included on the rabies test results.
- Received two (2) rabies blood tests showing adequate immunity to rabies prior to arrival. Blood samples for the tests must be drawn at least 30 days apart and the most recent test must be within two years of entry.
- A health certificate, in English, from an accredited veterinarian within fourteen (14) days of departure.
- Inform the Department of Agriculture of arrival information at least 24 hours in advance of your return to Hawaii. This is to ensure that there is a veterinarian or authorized State agent available to examine the dog at the airport holding facility upon the dog's return to the State. Also include contact information and Hawaii address.



Upon arrival, your service or exempted guide dog will need to:

- Have a valid Health Certificate in English, issued for the dog, issued within 14 days of arrival.
- Have blood drawn and be examined for ticks by an authorized State agent (or a private veterinarian at the user's expense if no advance notice of arrival is given).
- Meet the requirements of a Class A or resident, service and exempt guide dog. Then the dog is released to the user to the designated address.
- If the dog does not meet all requirements, or no advanced notice of arrival is given, the dog will be transported to the Quarantine Station for confinement.

I am a Hawaii resident with a disability and use a service dog. I need to go to the mainland to receive medical treatment that I cannot get here. Are there special requirements for me to satisfy to depart and return with my service dog?

A resident service dog user needing to leave Hawaii for medical treatment unavailable in the State, is permitted to travel with his or her dog if:

- A special permit is granted by the Chairperson, Board of Agriculture.
- Travel is only to the continental United States or Alaska.
- Absence from Hawaii is no longer than one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of departure.

- A notarized statement is submitted by your primary physician explaining the nature of the treatment to be received, and that it is not available in Hawaii. The statement must also include the name and address of the physician or referral center providing the treatment.
- A valid health certificate (for the dog) is obtained, and all pre-shipment and post-arrival conditions in the administrative rules have been met.

If the service (or exempted guide) dog with the special permit meets all requirements it will be released to the user. ***Nonresident guide, signal or service dogs are not eligible for entry into Hawaii by this special permit.***

What can I do if I am moving to Hawaii and my dog is in quarantine?

While your dog is in quarantine, you may stay at the Quarantine Station apartments. There are two (2) apartments available only for people with disabilities who use a service or guide dog and are planning to relocate to Hawaii. Use of the apartments is subject to availability. Requests must be in writing, in advance to the manager, stating the dates and reason for occupancy. Assignment of the apartments is on a first-come, first-served basis and is subject to the approval of the manager or State Veterinarian. No fee is charged for use of the apartments, but the user is responsible for any telephone installation and charges.



Where can I get more information about the quarantine?

For more information, contact the Animal Quarantine Station, Division of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, 99-951 Halawa Valley Street, Aiea, HI 96701, or call (808) 483-7151. Or visit their web site at www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/.

* * * * *

Do I have to get my guide or service dog licensed?

Hawaii State law (Hawaii Revised Statutes 143-2) requires anyone owning a dog to have the dog licensed. Although a guide or service dog assists a person with a disability, it is a dog and must be licensed. The State law authorizes the counties to establish ordinances and administrative rules to govern the licensing of dogs and fees charged. The service dog or guide dog must be licensed within fourteen (14) days of arrival in the county of intended residence.

How do I get my guide or service dog licensed?

Guide dogs and service dogs are individually trained by recognized national and international organizations to assist persons with disabilities in performing essential activities of daily living. Counties can note that the animal is a trained guide, service or signal dog on the certificate of registration. Although proof of the dog's certification is not required under the ADA, having this notation may make it easier for users of guide dogs and service dogs to identify their animal when going to a restaurant, store or other place of public accommodation. Cost for licensing of dogs varies by county.

To get your dog licensed contact:

City & County of Honolulu

Hawaiian Humane Society
2700 Waialae Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816
946-2187

County of Hawaii

Director of Finance
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, HI 96720
961-8351

Director of Finance
327-3543 (Kona)

County of Kauai

Kauai Humane Society
Hanapepe, HI
335-5255

County of Maui

Maui Humane Society
P.O. Box 1047
Puunene, HI 96784
877-3680

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

OAHU: 586-8121 (V/T)

586-8129 (Fax)

accesshi@aloha.net (E-mail)

www.hawaii.gov/health/dcab/ (Home Page)